

Wisconsin Immunization Program Update

August 17, 2006

Topics Include

Influenza Vaccine Update

Influenza Vaccine Update from the National Influenza Vaccine Summit:
Canada's two influenza vaccine suppliers, GSK Biologicals/Canada and sanofi pasteur/France, have indicated that influenza shots will be available about a month later than normal in Canada due to problems growing one of the strains for this year's vaccine. This is an issue only impacting Canada and we understand from the US Food and Drug Administration that this will not impact the US supply.

One of the strains originally selected for the influenza vaccine - type A-Wisconsin 161X strain - was slow growing. Because of the nature and flexibility of the US approach to annual production and licensing of annual vaccine strain changes, the US manufacturers were able to switch to full scale production using a different, better growing, variant more quickly. Therefore, the influenza supply for the US market should not be impacted.

For more information on the current influenza season, please visit our website at: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/influenza/>.